**Letters About Literature**

**Library of Congress**

**Writing Contest for Young Readers**

*Directions:*

1. Write a personal letter to an author you admire, or an author of a book (fiction or nonfiction) that inspired you. Your letter must be personal but persuasive, explain just how the author’s work changed your view of yourself or your world. Your letter should be at least 100 words and no more than 500 words.

2. Select a fiction or nonfiction book you have read and about which you have strong feelings. Explore those feelings and why you reacted the way you did during or after reading the author’s work. Consider these questions when writing your letter:

* What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before?
* What did you realize about yourself as a result of reading this book?
* Why was this work meaningful to you?
* *How* do you know the author’s work influenced you?

3. Write a persuasive letter stating your opinion and supporting that opinion with specific details. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Keep in mind these two tips:

* Correspond, don’t compliment!
* Do not summarize the book’s plot! The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author doesn’t know is how the book affected you and why it did so. Only YOU can explain that unique relationship you experienced while reading the book.

4. You must complete this assignment. It is a project worth 30 points. You are strongly encouraged to submit your letter to the state level contest. We have had a third-place winner and 21 finalists in the last two years! To have your letter submitted, complete the LAL 2015 Entry Coupon and have your parent or guardian sign it and return it to Ms. Mujal.

The rubric is included on the back of this page.

All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exposition** -the writer’s use of language skills, organization, and grammar. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **Content** - the writer’s achievement in addressing the contest theme, including concrete details that support your statements and/or arguments. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **Writer’s Voice** - the writer’s style and originality of expression. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Each criteria will be scored on a scale of zero (0) to five (5), where five (5) is excellent and zero (0) is not fulfilling the judging criteria.

The points will be doubled for your project grade of 30 points.